

ESKIMO LIFE. By Fridtjof Nansen. Translated by William Archer. With illustrations. Pp. xvi., 330. Longmans, Green & Co.

Meanwhile the Greenlander is rapidly losing out only the game which he lived upon but the skins of which he used to make his clothes and his boats. The making of the women's boats, so prominent in every story of Arctic travel, has almost ceased. With the disappearance of these and forever those periodical migrations which were and are indispensable to the existence of the race. Shivering in his European rags, the wretched native must starve ashore in places where with warm furs, bows and arrows, harpoons and lances, and buoyant kayaks, his ancestors lived in comfort and abundance. Mr. Nansen looks forward gloomily to the not far distant time when there will be no Greenlanders in Greenland. He contrasts the picture of the Esquimaux as he is under foreign tutelage and domination with the Esquimaux as he once was—as he still is in rare cases—dependent, inventive, alert and ever meditating upon some improvement in the make or the use of the weapons upon which his subsistence depended. He illustrates these points by describing the evolution as he observed it of that most characteristic Esquimaux weapon, the jointed harpoon. The primitive weapon, he thinks, was carried over from the North American mainland, and it is still to be found among the Esquimaux of Southwestern Alaska. It was simply the Esquimaux dart with steering feathers. On the coast of Greenland, or on the coast of the mainland opposite, the wandering tribesmen were confronted by the fact that they must conquer the seal or starve. How many clans starved while the fittest survived can only be imagined. But the inefficient dart with steering feathers gradually became a javelin, to which was fastened a bladder filled with air. If the diver missed his quarry he could at least recover his weapon. If he fortunately hit a seal, the bladder impeded the wounded creature's movements in diving and swimming. But the use of the javelin was frequently broken by

THE HISTORIAN IN GREECE AND ITALY.

about their slumber, and the black birds that come near being burned on a spit, are of more interest to him than the public incidents of your or the towns that he visited. For a brevity that absolutely leaves out everything which might be of interest about a town famous before Horace's time and after, commend us to its closing line, in which he names Brundisium and adds only that there his journey and his writing material both ended at once.

Freeman had his eye upon Horace all the way in his "Iter ad Brundisium," and yet he ever thinks of mentioning any of his own personal discomforts, nor does he allude to those which Horace mourned over. He picks out only the scraps of real information vouchsafed by the Augustan poet, and these he supplements from his own observations or from those recorded by others. If he is humorous it is not upon the contemplation of his own peculiarities or of what has happened to himself, but upon a topic germane to the antiquities that seep before his eyes. And he is not without a glimpse of something worth a smile. "And at the point in Ferentino," says he, "not far from the Porta Maggiore, it will be well to go down the hill a little to study the long inscription cut in the rock in honor of a local worthy and magistrate, Aulus Quinctilius by name, who seems to have played much the same part at Ferentinum in pagan days which William Harper played ages later at Bedford. He founded everything that, according to the notions of his day, could be founded. Among other things he ordained that thirty bushels of nuts should be yearly given to be scrambled for by the boys of Ferentinum, without distinction of bond or free. Now, is the will of this pious founder carried out? Are there any Italian Charity Commissioners to look into these matters, and to see that the boys get their nuts? Or, if the scrambling for nuts be deemed a nuisance—yet many well-remembered

A HANDSOME NEW EDITION

son. Mme. Junot's peculiar domain is that of social anecdote, of details at once trivial and important, like the costume or habits of her host, and there she maintains the vitality and interest with which she has attracted readers for many years. She describes Napoleon, for example, as "very careless of his personal appearance," with "a few white hairs on his temples," "giving him the look of a sultan." This was the day after the 18th Thermidor, when he was content to go about with "a shabby round hat drawn over his forehead, and his ill-powdered hair hanging over the collar of his gray greatcoat, which afterward became a disgrace to the name of greatcoat." Without gloves, because "the white plume of Henry IV. was not in fashion," he wore "a pair of slippers a useless luxury; with boots ill-made and unlacquered." He was not only the very antithesis of the "incredible" of that era, but was then, as late as later, a man from whom none of the little probabilities of life was to be expected. Upon one occasion he dined at the Permon household (that of Mme. Junot's mother) and he gave her him a bouquet of violets and presented it to Mme. Permon. "This piece of gallantry was so extraordinary on his part," says Mme. Junot, "that we could not

The house in Blandford Square, London, in which George Eliot wrote "Romola" is to be demolished to give space for the erection of a railway station.

INTOLERENCE AND SELF-INDULGENCE.
The exemption hitherto enjoyed by the Burman from any active participation in the great struggle for existence has naturally not been

POEMS BY NORMAN GALE.

As we wrestle at the midnight, breast to breast
and hand to hand,
Care and pain depart like swallows lifting to a
friendly land!

PROMPTLY DONE

And they'll grow again," he said, with a laugh.

BERNHARDT'S THEATRE.

Paris Letter in The London Standard.

he public are to be enabled to secure seats before and without paying the supplementary fee, amounting in most French theatres to as much as two francs. The box and cloak room attendants are not to be allowed to take any gratuities, as they are paid by the management. A violation of this rule will be visited by immediate dismissal. The clause is added to completely tie together with the prompter. The actors will therefore not only have to know their parts thoroughly well, but will also have to depend entirely on the public for the encouraging applause which is furnished in all other French theatres by hired hands.